

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

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O P 011534Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 57850

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

UNCLAS LUSAKA 1535

FOR IOP/M

FOR IBS/PA, PASS IPS

STATE FR AF/E AND AF/S

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: JOSHUA NKOMO PRESS CONFERENCE IN LUSAKA, JUNE 1, 1977

CO-LEADER OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, MR. JOSHUA NKOMO, HAS SAID HERE THAT THZ FRONT CANNOT ATTEND ANY CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AIMED AT RESOLVING RHODESIA S CRISIS IF SUCH A CONFERENCE INCUEDES "THOSE NOT INVOLVED IN THE WAR."

MR. NKOMO, WHO CO-LEADS RHODESIA S BLACK NATIONALIST ALLIANCE -THE PATRIOTIC FRONT - WITH MR. ROBERT MUGABE, TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE TODAY THAT SUCH A CONFRENCE WOULD ALSO HAV TO INCLUDE RHODESIA S PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH AS PART OF THE BRITISH DELEGATION.

HE CALLED THE PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER MEETING WITH THE ANGLO-AMERICAN CONSULTATIVE TEAM BEING LED BY BRITISH
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ENVOY, JOHN GRAHAM, AND AMZRICAN AMBSSADORTO ZAMBIA
STEPHEN LOW THIS MORNING.

ASKED WHETHER THIS MEANT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD NOT ATTEND A CONFERENCE WHICH INCLUDES HIS RIVAL, BISHOP ABE MUZOREWA AND OTHERS, MR. NKOMO REPLIED:

"ONLY THOSE WHO ARE INVOLVED IN THE WAR AND NOBODY ELSE. I DON T KNOW WHO MUZOREWA AN OTHERS ARE; WHETHER THEY ARE FIGHTING OR NOT, I DON T KNOW. BUT WE CAN DISCOVER ALL THOSE WHO ARE FIGHTING; SO I AM NOT GOING TO LABOR ON THAT ONE."

RESPONDING TO A QUESTION AS TO WHERE MR. SMIH FITS IN, THE NATIONALIST EADER SAID AS FAR AS THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IS CONCERNED, THE RHODEIAN PRIME MINISTE WAS ONLY FIGHTING ON BEHALF OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, AND THE FRONT COULD ONLY TALK TO THE BRITSH GOVERNMENT, AND NOT TO MR. SMITH.

A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AFTER THE MEETING WITH MR. GRAHAM, AND READ BY MR. NKOMO AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED THAT THE NKOMO DELEGATION MET TODAY WITH THE ANGLO-AMERICAN TEAN AND HA BZEN ASSURED THE TEAM WAS NOT CONUCTING WHAT HE TERMED "MINI CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE," BUT "AN INQUIRY."

"AT THE END OF THE INQUIRY, A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE MAY BE CONVENED DEPENDING UPON THE BRITISH ASSESSMENT OF THE INQUIRY," H SAID. ADDING THT THE CONSULTATIE TEAM EMPHASIZED THAT THE CONVENING OS A CONFERENCE WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE BRITISH ASSESSMENTOF WHETHER THE CONFERENCE WILL SUCCEED AND NOT BY CONSENSUS OR CLAIM OF HAVING FOUND CONSENSUS ON THE

STATEMENT ALSO NOTED THAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN UNCLASSIFIED

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LUSAKA, MR. STEPHEN LOW "SAT IN AT THE TALK." ITEM USIS LUSAKA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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